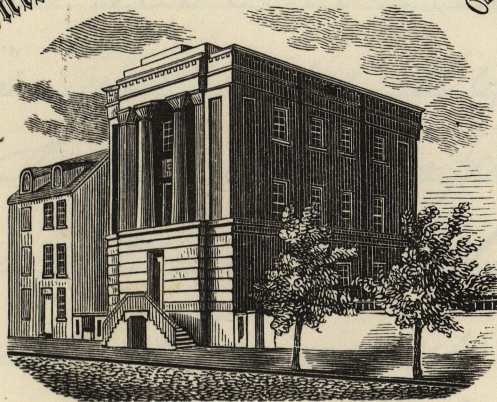


The Indestructibility of Matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY

of the

Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania,



FOR

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

BY

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Indestructibility of Matter.

I have chosen this subject with some reluctance knowing that it is not only difficult but that I am incompetent to master it in all its details and point them out as clearly as I could wish and its importance demands.

Matter may be defined as anything or substance capable of affecting the senses and having certain

properties: viz. Magnitude, Inertia
Attraction, Impenetrability, Elasticity,
Porosity, Divisibility and
Indestructibility

By magnitude we signify that everything has length, breadth and thickness. Have the particles of the air magnitude? They have, but are so exceedingly minute as to be invisible to the unaided eye.

All things have Elasticity. It requires to prove this in might easily

and readily be accomplished by taking two spheres. One of India Rubber, and the other of Ivory. Throwing them with force upon a hard or dense substance and they will rebound. This is owing to their elasticity; or the capability of their particles being separated, momentarily at least, and others being compressed into closer proximity without being retained in that position. And suddenly resuming their proper

position and form. Iron is one of the most elastic bodies known. The gases and atmospheric air are, the most elastic bodies that are known to exist. Liquids are very slightly elastic.

The Porosity of a body is caused in this manner it is composed of minute particles of the same composition and if they are placed in apposition they will leave small apertures. This is owing to their Impene-

trability?

It is Impenetrable
owing to one particle not allow-
ing another to occupy the same
position at the same time. Should
we force @ nail or piece of Iron
through @ board we will find
that it has not penetrated @
single particle of Wood but has
merely pushed them to one side
or the other. This example will
suffice to prove the Impenetra-
bility and Porosity. For if the
particles of Iron do not penetrate
the particles of Wood there must

be a space between them although very minute. And an accumulation of these particles and spaces would cause the Porosity of the body.

The Divisibility of matter is one of the most important to the Homoeopathist. It is believed that a body is composed of inconceivably minute particles and are capable of being separated. This is stated in the works of the most respected of the dominant school of medicine. One of their writers stated

that a small amount of Indigo
will give color to @ given number
of gallons of water. That Gold
may be beaten so thin that it
will take 360,000 of them, that
is the Gold leaves, to make @
pile 1 inch in thickness. That
@ small portion of Strychnia will
diffuse itself through a pint of
water, rendering every drop bitter.
If these were shown to them and
pronounced Homoeopathic remedies
they would deny, that they
could be thus minutely divided.
If the Gold is so exceedingly

divisible by the use of the hammer why is it not still further divisible by using other methods? Should it be placed in a mortar and triturated with a pestle, I cannot see why it is not still further divisible, after having been divided as minutely as they have stated. Nor do I think that its divisibility stops here if alcohol is used as the menstruum. In the odoriferous bodies we have examples of divisibility. The Rose will send forth its fragrance by day and

by night yet it will not
have lost anything that
will be perceptible. The
Eternal grain of Truth is cited
by the most of writers as being
the best example of this.

I will here cease the
discussion of the properties of
Matter and confine myself
to the one that I have chosen
for the basis of this essay.
Desiring as I progress in the
subject that the ideas that
I shall therein adduce are
not erroneous. And if erroneous

that they will not be attributed
to the inability of those who taught
me or the defects of their teachings
but to my incapability of ap-
plying those teachings correct-
ly. Chemistry is to the arts
and Sciences what the Engine
is to the Machinery; it is the
propelling power. What would
our Science be without it? It
is its Keystone. Its very centre,
from which its various branches
diverge and in which they have
their existence. To the Homoeopath-
ist it is of vital importance as

his remedial agents must of necessity be free from all foreign and deleterious matters. How could he remove these matters without a knowledge of Chemistry? Ay! How could he determine their presence without its aid? A knowledge of it will assist him very materially in his Physiological researches and in combating many of the diseases and accidents which of necessity must fall under his notice. And therefore should be carefully and thoroughly studied and

practiced by him that he may become more familiarly acquainted with it.

"In the beginning all things were created" To water I desire to draw the attention. To all appearances it is in the same quantities, as it was after the creation. Immense quantities have been used in various ways. It being used in most of the manufactures in large and small amounts. It evaporates very readily. Ascending to where the atmosphere is rarer and

contains less caloric. From the oceans, seas, bays, lakes and rivers it is evaporated by the heat of surrounding objects.

After being condensed it descends in the form of rain and snow.

The earth not being in a condition to absorb it as fast as it descends it forms minute streams as these pass on they unite increasing in size and volume forming a rivulet, a Creek, a River and finally pouring its contents into the mighty deep, affording one example of the Indestructibility

of Matter. Continuing on in this
routine for ages pass and will
for all time. Should its sup-
ply be withdrawn all things
would perish. Man and beast
could not exist. Vegetation
would ^{cease} and become a blank as
before creation.

Carbonic acid in
the air is another illustration
of the indestructibility of Matter.
Some believe and I have no
doubt that they have good
reasons for saying that after
the creations and thousands

of years before Adam or any
being was placed upon the
earth that there were immense
forests of great growth. that
these were removed to allow
man and other creatures to
have their being. And by the
pressure of the earth, and other
influences, above them caused
the displacement of the water
and other matters retaining
the carbon in an almost pure
state. It is deposited in large
veins; from these it is taken by
man, and by him it is used in

various ways. He is so constituted
 that most of his food has to be
 prepared by cooking and to
 accomplish this he has to resort
 to the use of Carbon. By the
 union of oxygen with Carbon
 we have carbonic evolved: these
 elements uniting in proportions
 to form Carbonic acids. And
 for every pound of Carbon thus
 used we have 22 pounds of
 Carbonic acids given off along
 with some water. For in every
 case where there is combustion,
 still adding to that which

6 lbs

have just mentioned, there is
water formed.

Man is required
to receive some of his existence
from the air. Inhaling Ox-
ygen and Carbonic acid and
forming water. The most of his
excretions contain water.

After death his body returns
to its different elements. In
Putrefaction or decomposing
the Carbon and Oxygen unite
in proportion to form Carbonic
acid. Hydrogen and Oxygen
unite forming water, And the

Hydrogen unites with the
Nitrogen forming ammonia
These are dispersed through
the air. This will in a mea-
sure account for the super-
plus of these being Indestruct-
ible

As I have stated man
requires Oxygen. It is highly
necessary for his existence.
The question very naturally
arises How is its supply
kept up to the standard?
I cannot enter into a full
discussion of the question

at this time and will con-
tinue myself by giving a few
facts. Carbonic acid is drunk
in by the Vegetation of the Earth
for its nourishment. In the
country where the trees and
plants are more abundant
we have the purest air.

Seeing that man requires
Oxygen and vegetation
Carbonic acid. The one
exhaling Carbonic acid and
exhalation of Oxygen by the
other we find by this means
and the other than I have

attempted to describe that their
quantity is still Refr at the Stand-
ards.

These are but simple proofs
of the Indestructibility of Matter,
I hope they will meet with your
approval and are sufficient to
prove that I am at least acquaint-
ed with it in some of its details

I am with respect

Your humble and obedient Serv^t

Henry C. Pratt